

REMARKS

The invention, as claimed in independent claim 1, relates to a blister pack device for a powder inhaler. The device includes a blister pack having a body which includes first and second surfaces which are substantially parallel to each other and have medicament containing blisters arranged in rows running parallel to a longitudinal axis of the blister pack. The blisters in each row in the first surface are configured to sit between the blisters in a co-operating row in the second surface, as is shown for example in Figs. 3 and 4, which configuration permits a smaller size for the blister pack device. In addition, the blisters in the first and second surfaces are rotationally symmetrically disposed about the longitudinal axis of the blister pack. This permits the user to use first empty (after a number of uses over a period of time) the blisters on the first surface when the blister pack is mounted in a support unit, e.g., unit 1 in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, with the user accessing the blisters through openings 87 in the support unit that are aligned with the blisters. The user can then rotate the blister pack 180° (as noted in the application at pages 17 and 18) and then empty the blisters on the second surface, which blisters automatically align with the positions that the blisters of the first surface had occupied in the first position (i.e., aligned with the openings 87), owing to the rotational symmetry. Claim 1 has been amended to affirmatively recite the support unit that encloses the blister pack and includes a plurality of openings (e.g., 87) in one surface which correspond with the blisters in the first or second surface adjacent thereto regardless of which way the user inserts the blister pack.

Dependent claim 16, which was directed to the support unit (1) with openings, has been cancelled.

The reference numerals have been removed from the claims, which obviates the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph with respect to claim 13.

In the office action, claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Friberg WO98/00351, and claim 16 was rejected as obvious in view of Friberg in view of Von Schuckmann WO97/40876.

Friberg discloses a blister pack with first and second surfaces that fold over so that the blisters on one surface sit between blisters on another surface. Friberg describes a blister of the pack as holding "one piece of medicine, e.g. a tablet or capsule" (page 3, line 35) and describes breaking the lid foil with a user's finger (page 7, lines 10-13). Friberg does not disclose or in any way suggest using the blister pack on any type of device, let alone one having a support unit with openings in one surface which correspond with the blisters in the first or second surface adjacent thereto regardless of which way the user inserts the blister pack, as required by claim 1.

While Von Schuckmann describes a support unit that receives a blister pack, it does not describe a support unit that can receive a blister pack with different surfaces aligned with openings in a surface in the support unit, and does not describe or suggest having openings arranged so that they will be aligned with the blisters in the first surface and with the blisters in the second surface.

The prior art, taken alone or in combination, provides no inkling whatsoever of staggering the blisters in first and second surfaces, to provide for compactness, at the same time as relying on rotational symmetry so that the blisters the first surface will align with the openings in the support unit when the first surface is in position, and the blisters in the second surface will align with the openings in the support unit when the second surface is in position.

The subject matter of claim 1 accordingly is not anticipated by or rendered obvious by Friberg and/or Von Schuckmann, and claim 1 is allowable under 35 USC 102 and 103(a).

The remaining claims depend on claim 1 and are allowable with it.

Accordingly, all claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicant : Von Schuckmann et al.
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Enclosed is \$410 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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